

Honorable Frank E. Moss, Chairman  
Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We have reviewed the staff report, "An Analysis of the Future Landsat Effort." This report is generally consistent with both our experience with LANDSAT and our more extensive experience with other technical intelligence gathering systems.

Economic intelligence has grown in importance during the past few years. The assessment of nonrenewable resources and the monitoring of highly variable renewable resources such as crops are key issues in the analysis of foreign economies. The U.S. Intelligence Community, as well as foreign intelligence organizations, will probably increase their use of LANDSAT or similar data in the future. This increase will be influenced by the spatial and spectral content of the LANDSAT data, as well as the timeliness of availability.

We have found that the use of LANDSAT data in conjunction with other information available to us to be particularly valuable. The U.S. will need both an aggressive R&D program within the Intelligence Community and a continued effort in the civil sector. Close coordination should be maintained between intelligence and civil programs to minimize duplication and to assist appropriate exchange of technology. The Standing Committee on Space Policy of the NSC Undersecretaries Committee has the responsibility of ensuring such a technology exchange as well as protecting those technologies which are especially sensitive from an intelligence standpoint.

Our experience with LANDSAT imagery, although not as extensive as with other imagery, has convinced us that LANDSAT has a significant economic potential. The implementation of an operational LANDSAT program will benefit both the private and public sector of the U.S. as well as other countries.

Sincerely,

George L. Cary  
Legislative Counsel

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